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Inkjet printer

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PATENT SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF INVENTION Inkjet printer

2. CLAIM

An inkjet printer wherein the ink is expelled through a nozzle and a dot image is printed on a printing medium, which is characterized by having a heat source lamp with a reflector plate and by that the printing area of the above mentioned printing medium is heated before and after the printing by the radiated heat from the lamp.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[Industrial application field]

This invention relates to the inkjet printer which has a heating and drying process of the printed ink.

[Conventional technology]

For a traditional drying method of the ink which was inkjet-printed by using the radiated heat from the heat source lamp, there is a method which heats and dries ink quickly on the printing paper after it is inkjet-printed by transferring the radiated heat of far-infrared lamp and xenon lamp as in the patent publications of Toku Kai Shou 57-120447 and 58-107345, and it realized high speed, clear image printing and shortened ink fixing time which prevents the blotting of the ink due to the wrinkles on the paper or non-fixed ink.

[Problems to be solved by this invention]

Above mentioned transferring method of the radiation heat enables the effective heating from the printed side on the paper, however, as the heating initiates after the printing, sizing level is low and the ink is absorbed before the drying starts in case of using the paper which absorbs ink in a short time and the dot diameter may be enlarged more than necessary and there may be uneven spreading to the direction of the fiber of the paper which may result in damaging the image quality. Also, when printed on non-coat OHP sheet, the ink contacts the adjacent dot on the printed surface by the surface tension of the ink itself immediately after it is printed or it spreads more than needed and the image printing becomes impossible.

Thus, the conventional technology has a problem which does not realize the consistent

quality, clear image printing on the general purpose printing paper.

This invention solves such a problem and its purpose is to realize the inkjet printing which enables to print clear consistent images on the general purpose, printing medium such as commercially sold, good quality paper and non-coat OHP sheet.

[Method to solve the problem]

The ink jet printer of this invention has a heat source lamp with a reflector plate and the printed ink is heated and dried by heating before and after the printing the area to be printed of the above mentioned printing medium by the radiated thermal ray from the lamp.

[Function]

By the inkjet printer of this invention, as the printed ink is dried at a much higher speed than the traditional method, printing the clear consistent image is realized on the general purpose printing medium such as commercially sold good quality paper or non-coat OHP sheet.

[Application examples]

Figure 1 is a drawing of the entire construction of the application example of this invention. Printing head 1 is guided with a carriage guide 2 and moves toward the direction of arrow I and it performs inkjet-printing on a printing paper 3 which is moved forward by intermittent line advancing function which is synchronized with a printing head 1 by a platen 4 and a guide roller 5. On the other hand, the light radiation from a heat source lamp 7 is collected and applied to a heating zone 10 which is a heated area before and after the printing on the surface of the printing paper 3, by a reflector plate 8 which has a curved surface such as paraboloid, ellipsoid and hyperboloid and the light is heated by a radiated heat transfer. Light shielding cover 6 prevents the light to radiate directly the printing head 1 and protects the printing head from radiation and heat. Clear protective glass 9 prevents dust accumulation on the heat source lamp 7 and the reflector plate 8.

As shown in (a) and (b) of Figure 2, multiple ink expelling holes 11 are installed and the image is printed by forming the dot image on the printing paper 3 by ink expelling control procedure such as piezo-electric element control, electric field control and static charge control. In this application example, piezo-electric element is used and there are nine ink expelling holes in one longitudinal line, at 0.635 mm interval and approximately 120 µm diameter ink drops are expelled. The ink is water soluble and the main ingredient is water soluble solution made by dissolving 1 to 2 % dye into water and 10 to 20 % glycerin.

Heat source lamp 7 is incandescent lamp or xenon lamp which is represented by halogen lamp or infrared lamp and in this application example, 200 W, rod shaped halogen lamp of which entire length is 250 mm is used. The width of the printing zone of the printing paper 3 is 220 mm and the lamp which has a wider light emission area than the printing width is needed. Heat source lamp 7 is set 60 mm apart from the platen 4 and radiates and heats the heating zone 10 as mentioned above. The status of the heating is checked by a temperature sensor 12a installed on the front side of the printing paper 3 as in Figure 2 (a) or a temperature sensor 12b which is installed on the side of the platen 4 in Figure 2 (b) and it is compared to the set temperature by using a comparing circuit installed in a light volume control circuit 13 and the amount of the light is checked by the feed back and it is maintained so that the temperature of the printing paper 3 is approximately equal to the set value. Above set temperature can be controlled freely by the user according to the type of the paper.

The relationship between the heating temperature of the printing paper and ink fixing temperature when printed on the printing paper a, b and c (all are commercially sold good quality paper) by using the inkjet printer of this invention is shown in Figure 3. This was compared with Figure 5 of patent* publication 58-107345 and it was found that (the ink) was fixed at a relatively low heating temperature in a short time and the effect of preheating to shorten ink drying time is obvious. Also, the relationship between the heating temperature of the printing paper and the dot diameter after the ink was fixed when printing paper a b and c were used, is shown in Figure 4, similarly. The diameter of the dot includes uneven bleeding of the ink to the direction of the fiber of the paper. The higher the heating temperature is, the more the dot diameter is reduced to about 200 μ and the printing of consistent clear image is possible without being affected by the quality of the paper. It was found that the printer of this invention can produce good quality print on the regular non-coat OHP sheet at the heating temperature of 100 °C and was proved that good quality image printing is possible not only on the commercially sold good quality paper but also on various, general use printing medium such as non-coat OHP sheet.

This application example was for printing monochrome, however, it is obvious that it can be applied to color printing.

(*Translator's note: the word which means patent is missing, probably a type miss)

[Effect of the invention]

As mentioned above, consistent quality, clear inkjet printing on various printing medium such as commercially sold good quality paper and non-coat OHP sheet, becomes possible by this invention..

4. Brief explanation of drawings

Figure 1 is an oblique view drawing that shows entire construction of the application example of inkjet printer. Figure 2 a and b are a side view of Figure 1 and a circuit drawing which shows temperature control method. Figure 3 is a graph which shows the relation between the heating temperature of the printing paper and ink fixing time. Figure 4 is a graph which shows the relationship between the heating temperature of the printing paper and dot diameter after being fixed.

- 1: Printing head
- 2: Carriage guide
- 3: Printing paper
- 4: Platen
- 5: Guide roller
- 6: Light shield cover
- 7: Heat source lamp
- 8: Reflector plate
- 9: Clear protection glass
- 10: Heating zone
- 11: Ink expelling hole
- 12a, b: Temperature sensor
- 13: Light measurement circuit

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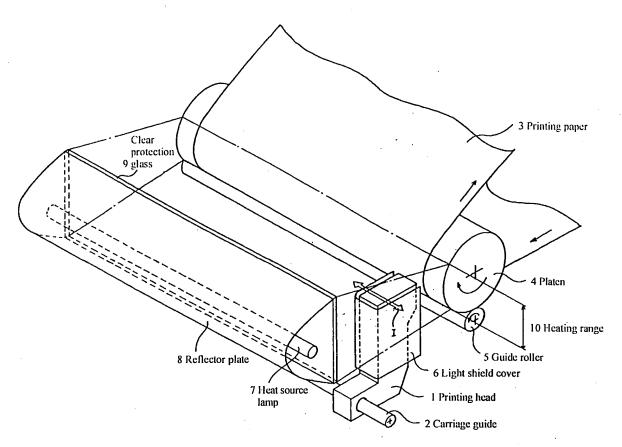
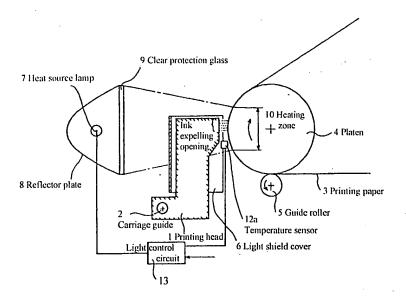
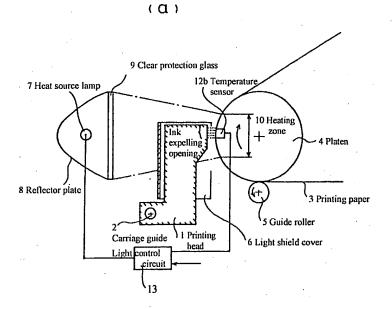


Figure 1





(b)

Figure 2

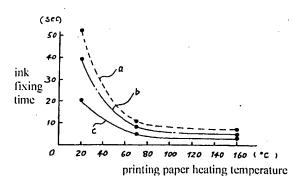


Figure 3

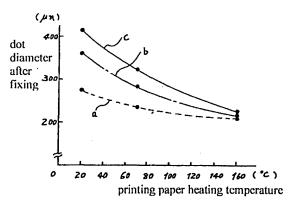


Figure 4

Translated by: Sayuki Sugimura 651-490-0233, ssugimura@pipeline.com, April 9, 2002

⑩ 日本国特許庁(JP)

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審査請求 未請求 発明の数 1 (全5頁)

図発明の名称

インクジエツト記録装置

②特 願 昭60-250122

纽出 願 昭60(1985)11月8日

砂発 明 者 阿 部

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会社

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明 細 書

1. 発明の名称 インクジェット記録装置

2 特許請求の範囲

ノズルよりインクを噴射させ配母媒体上にドット像を配録させるインクジェット配母装置において、反射板を備えた発熱顔ランプを有し、配母時に数ランプからの出射熱線が前配配母媒体配母部分を印字の前後にわたつて予熱及び加熱することを特徴とするインクジェット配母装置。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

〔 産業上の利用分野 〕

本発明は記録インクの加熱乾燥手段を有するインクジェット記録装置に関する。

〔従来の技術〕

従来の発熱原ランプの輻射熱を利用してインク シエント記録されたインクを乾燥させる手段とし ては特別的57-120447.58-107345 の様に速赤外線ランプ、キセノンランプの照射に よつてインクジェット記録後の記録紙面上のイン クを輻射熱伝達で急速に加熱乾燥させるものがあ り、高速で鮮明な画像記録とインク定着時間の短 縮による紙しわや未定着インクによる汚れの防止 を実現するものであつた。

[本発明が解決しよりとする問題点]

前記輻射熱伝達手段は記録紙の記録紙面側から 効率良く加熱することができるが、記録後から加 熱を開始するため、サイズ度が低くインク級収時 間が早い記録紙では乾燥開始以前にインクが吸収 されてしまりので必要以上のドット径の広がりや 紙繊維方向への不均等なにじみを生じて画質をそ これてしまり場合がある。また、非コートの日ア シートへ記録した場合には配録直後に記録をで インクがインク自体の表面張力によつて隣接て ドントと接触したり必要以上の広がりを生じてし まい画像記録が不能になる。

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このように、従来技術では様々な汎用配母紙に対して同品質の鮮明な画像配母を実現することが できないという問題点がある。

本発明はかかる問題点を解決するもので、その目的とするどころは市販上質紙及び非コート OHP シート等の汎用記録媒体に同品質の鮮明な画像記録が可能なインクジェット記録を実現するものである。

[問題点を解決するための手段]

本発明のインクジェント記録装置は、反射板を備えた発熱減ランプを有し、配録時に該ランプからの出射熱線が前記記録媒体記録部分を印字の前後にわたつて予熱及び加熱するととにより、記録されたインクを加熱乾燥をさせるものである。

〔作 用〕

本発明のインクジェット記録装置によれば、記録インクの乾燥が従来よりも急速におこなわれるので、市販上質紙及び非コートのHPシート等の

- 3 -

電界制御、荷電制御などのインク吐出制御手段に よつてドット像を記録紙 5 上に形成して画像記録 をしている。本例では圧電素子を用い、 0.635 MXビンチで縦 1 列 9 個のインク吐出口を有し、約 120μm径のインク液滴を吐出させている。イ ンク材質は 30~20 多のグリセリンと 1~2 9 の染料を水に溶解したものを主成分とした水性イ ンクである。

発熱

の ランプ 7 はハロゲンタンプに代表される
白熱

ランプヤキセノンタンプまたは赤外

ランプや中セノンタンプまたは赤外

ランプでは200mの体状

ロゲンタンプを使用している。配母紙 3 の配母概

は220mであり、少なくともこれ以上の長為

の 発光

部を有するタンプが必要であればの ランプ 7 はブラテン 4 から 6 0 mmの距離にセット

され、前述のように加熱・範囲 1 0 を輻射加熱・する。

配母紙 3 の加熱 状態は第2 凶 a のように配母紙 3

の 段個に設けた 温度 センサー 1 2 a . または、第

2 図 b のようにブラテン 4 の側に設けられた 温度

センサ 1 2 b の少なくとも一方によつて検知され、 汎用記録媒体に同品質の鮮明な画像記録が実現で きる。

(寒疮例)

第2 図 a , b のように記録ヘッドには複数個のインクの吐出口11 が設けられ、圧電素子制御。

- 4 -

光量制御回路 1 3 に内蔵された比較回路で設定温度と比較し、光放フィードパックして配録紙 3 の 温度が低性設定値となるように保たれる。上配設定温度はユーザーが紙質に合わせて自在にコントロールができる。

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コートOHPシートのような様々な汎用記録媒体 に良好な画像記録が可能であることがわかつた。

[発明の効果]

以上述べたように、本発明によれば市販上質紙 や非コートのHPシート等の様々な汎用配録媒体 に同品質の鮮明なインクジェット配録が可能にな る。

4 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は本発明のインクジェット配録装置実施例の全体構成を示す射視図。第2図a、bは第1の倒面図及び温度制御方法を示す回路図。第3図は配母紙加熱温度とインク定着時間の関係を示すグラフ。第4図は配母紙加熱温度と定角後のドット径の関係を示すグラフ。

1…記録ヘッド

2…キャリッジガイド

5 … 記録紙

4…ブラテン

5…ガイドローラー

6…選光カバー

7 …発熱顔ランプ

8 … 反射板

9…透明保護ガラス

10…加熱範囲

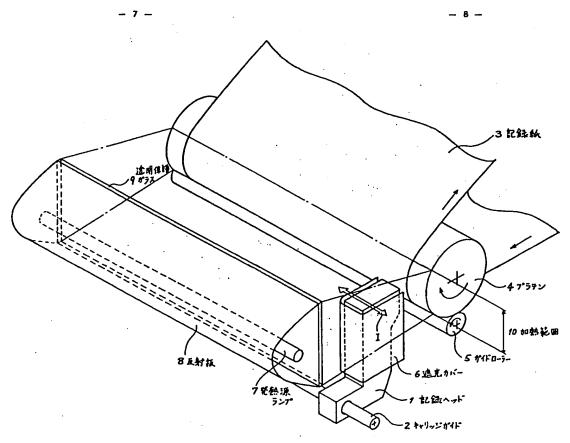
11…インク吐出口

1 2 a , b … 温度センサー

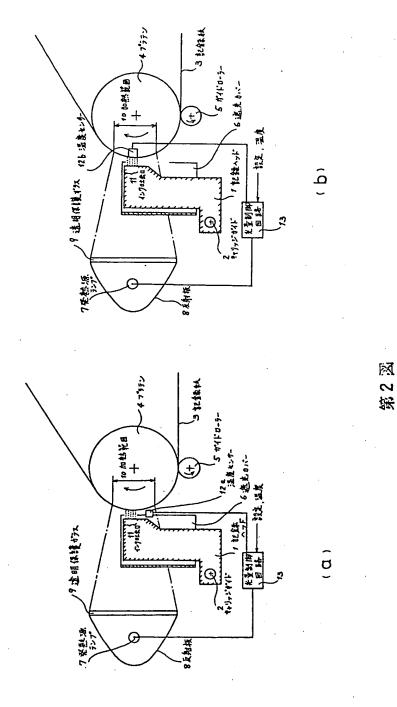
13…光量制御回路

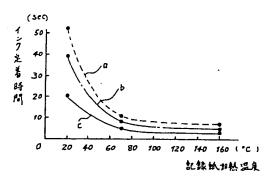
F1 F

出願人 セイコーエブソン株式会社 代理人 弁理士 敬 上 務(他1名)

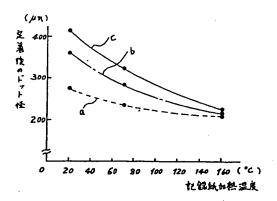


第1図





第3図



第4図